

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05407 111500Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
/067 W

-----082253 111503Z /72

O 111456Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8196
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05407

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE, IS, SREF
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON CASUALTIES IN LEBANON

1. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
(CONVERS) TELLS US THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED AT A
CASUALTY FIGURE FROM THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.
CONVERS SAID THAT ICRC MUST RELY ON THE INFORMATION THEY
RECEIVE FROM THE VARIOUS PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. THEY
HAVE REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION, BASED ON THE PROVISIONS
OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, BUT AS OF THIS DATE HAVE NOT
RECEIVED RESPONSES FROM THE PARTIES AND ARE FORCED TO
RELY ON PRESS REPORTS WHICH, ACCORDING TO CONVERS, ARE
"TOO VAGUE AND CONFLICTING".

2. QUESTIONED AS TO LIKELIHOOD OF RECEIVING SUCH INFORMA-
TION, CONVERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PLO HAS NO OBLIGATIONS
UNDER THE CONVENTIONS BUT HAS ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF
CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM AND WILL PRE-
SUMABLY SUBMIT THE DATA TO ICRC IN TIME. AS FOR THE
ISRAELIS, HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO ANSWER HAD YET BEEN
RECEIVED BY ICRC FROM THEM, THEY HAVE GIVEN THE APPROPRIATE
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR ARMED FORCES.

3. MISSION WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN/IF INFORMATION BECOMES
AVAILABLE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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